Attorney Docket No.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

The specification of which a. is attached hereto b. was filed on of a PCT-filed application) d if any), which I have review	escribed and d			ended on	(if applicable) (in the o	æ
	viewed and und		•	ation, includi	ng the claims, as amended by an	y
hereby claim foreign priorit isted below and have also in application on the basis of ward. a. no such applications by such applications have	dentified below which priority is have been filed	any foreign application fo claimed: I.	code, § 119/365 of any fon r patent or inventor's certif	eign applicati icate having :	on(s) for patent or inventor's certi a filing date before that of the	fic
	FOREIGN AP	PLICATION(S), IF ANY.	CLAIMING PRIORITY UN	DER 35 USC	£ 119	
COUNTRY		LICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)		DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)	_
Japan	20	001-016394	24/01/2001			_
	SOSSION AD	PLICATION(S), IF ANY, F	FILED BEFORE THE PRICE	ORITY APPL	ICATION(S)	_
ALL	. PUKEIGN AM				DATE OF ISSUE	_
COUNTRY		LICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)		(day, month, year)	
hereby claim the benefit ur and, insofar as the subject r provided by the first paragra	APP nder Title 35, Unatter of each caph of Title 35, It	nited States Code, § 120/ If the claims of this applica United States Code, § 112	(day, month, year) 365 of any United States a ation is not disclosed in the	e prior United to disclose m		Titl
hereby claim the benefit ur and, insofar as the subject ro provided by the first paragra 37, Code of Federal Regula	nder Title 35, Unnatter of each caph of Title 35, Idions, § 1.56(a)	nited States Code, § 120/ If the claims of this applica United States Code, § 112 which occurred between	(day, month, year) 365 of any United States a ation is not disclosed in the	e prior United to disclose mapplication ar	(day, month, year) national application(s) listed belo States application in the manner aterial information as defined in 1	iti al

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 (reprinted below):

§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

- (a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent with be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:
 - (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
 - (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim;

Of

- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
 - (1) Each inventor named in the application:
 - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.
- (e) In any confinuation-in-part application, the duty under this section includes the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

AH 1.4.4.1.184	D N. 40 404	1 A	D N 19 110
Albrecht, John W.	Reg. No. 40,481	Larson, James A.	Reg. No. 40,443
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Altera, Allan G.	REg. No. 40,274	Leonard, Christopher J.	Reg. No. 41,940
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		Zeuli, Anthony R.	Reg. No. 45,255
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I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/ organization who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Merchant & Gould P.C. to the contrary.

I understand that the execution of this document, and the grant of a power of attorney, does not in itself establish an attorney-client relationship between the undersigned and the law firm Merchant & Gould P.C., or any of its attorneys.

I hereby declare that all statements r the herein of my own knowledge are true and that all terments made on information and belief believed to be true; and further that the control of the knowledge that the file of the like so made punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false state may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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